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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

January 11th, 1860.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR

OF

TOBACCO WAREHOUSE, NO. 5,

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND,

JANUARY SESSION, 1860.



R E P O R T .

TO THE HONORABLE,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND :

I herewith in conformity with the requirement of the law, submit to your Honorable Body, statistics of Tobacco Warehouse No. 5, and I take the opportunity thus afforded, to make a few suggestions, based on my experience as Inspector, which my judgment teaches me to think, will improve the "Tobacco Fund" of the State, and greatly facilitate the business of the Warehouse.

The sum, which the existing law allows the State, per hogshead for doing up, or restoring stayed Tobacco, is totally inadequate to the *actual expenses* incurred, even \$2.00 per hogshead, would barely enable the State to escape loss. The proportion of Maryland Tobacco *stayed*, is a very trifling percentage of the entire quantity received and inspected at this Warehouse, $\frac{8}{10}$ tenths of the inspection being of Western Tobacco, a result attributable to the conceded superiority in the curing, and management of the Maryland planter. I would, therefore, respectfully suggest, such a modification of the law, as will relieve the State, at the least, from all loss on stays.

While the existing law *increased* the wages of labor in the Tobacco Warehouses, it reduced the fees of stays to the State, and left the outage revenue of \$1.25 per hogshead, undisturbed. This condition of things, it is hardly worth while to say, works a curtailment of the net contribution to the State Tobacco Fund, which I have endeavored to place before your Honorable Body, I feel well assured that a prompt modifica-

tion of the law, in the particulars named, if put into operation before the beginning of the ensuing inspection season, will materially augment the State's revenue. Allow me also, to invite your attention to the suggestion made by the Comptroller, with reference to storages, during the activity of the spring and summer, rendered necessary by the over crowded state of the Tobacco Warehouse proper, it has happened, since my induction into office, that in the absence of authority to rent storage rooms, which authority I subsequently sought and obtained from the Comptroller, that I have frequently had to allow large quantities of Tobacco to remain on the side walks covered with tarpaulin, but still exposed more or less, to the fickle changes of Spring and Summer weather. Provision should be made, authorizing the Inspector in such emergencies, to rent suitable places for the safety and protection of Tobacco, which the law obliges him to receive when tendered at the Warehouse, regardless of the capacity of the building to receive it; nor should the planter be made to suffer from damage to his Tobacco, by exposure in wet and rainy weather, because of this defect in the law.

Under authority granted me by the Comptroller during the last spring and summer, I rented three Warehouses, to store the excessive receipts beyond my ability to shelter in the State's Warehouse. On which I paid rent, insurance and drayage, and charged the same under the head of "current expenses," this of course lessened the revenue of the Warehouse; but, should the suggestions with reference to outage, stays, and redraws, be adopted, this will constitute an offset to all these extra charges and expenses. I, therefore, respectfully urge upon your Honorable Body, such a modification of the law, as will more equitably establish the outage per hogshead. Suffer me to suggest, that the outage fee on all Tobacco weighing 1500 pounds and under, should be \$1.50 per hogshead, and \$2.00 per hogshead, where the weight exceeds 1500 pounds. The charge for *redrawing* Ohio and Maryland Tobacco, should be increased to 75 cents, per hogshead, and \$1.00, on the product of other States inspected here, this discrimination is made by reason of the extraordinary difference in the weight of Tobacco grown in Maryland, and Ohio, and Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri.

The last Legislature increased the salaries of the Chief Clerk, shipping Clerk, and receiving Clerk, but made no appropriation for the payment of the same, for this reason the Comptroller was without authority to allow more than the old law appropriated for their salaries. I therefore invite your special attention to the necessity of so remedying this

defect, as to relieve these officers from the embarrassment and inconvenience, under which they now suffer.

The present law requires an Inspector of Tobacco, to bond to the State in the sum of \$30,000, his salary is by the same law, fixed at \$1200 only. I beg to represent to your Honorable Body, that, this compensation is wholly and entirely incommensurate not only with the heavy amount of labor he has to perform ; but, with the *responsibility* of his office, and the enormous bond, into which he has to enter with the State, he has to give his constant and personal supervision to the business, and the actual labor devolved on him, and his Chief Clerk is inconceivably greater than is generally known. Out of this salary of \$1200, the Inspector has to pay \$50, to the State for his Commission ; I, therefore, suggest that the salary of the Inspector and Chief Clerk may be made a fair equivalent for services and responsibilities now scarce half compensated for.

Trusting your Honorable Body will investigate the subjects to which I have invited your attention, and that your action will be correspondent with the reforms and modifications suggested herein. I beg to conclude by an expression of my readiness to receive any Committee which you may appoint to examine the affairs of this Warehouse.

Respectfully, &c.,

CHARLES P. MONTAGUE,

Inspector of Tobacco Warehouse, No. 5.

STATISTICS.

TOBACCO WAREHOUSE, No. 5,
BALTIMORE, January 1, 1860.

RECEIPTS.	Dolls.	Cts.
Number of Hogsheads shipped from May 1st, 1859, to November 1st, 1859, 25,497; which, at \$1 25 per hogshead, yielded.....	31,871	25
Amount received for extra lots,	716	50
“ “ “ doing up stays,	2,579	00
“ “ “ re-draws,	310	50
“ “ “ cooperage,	537	25
“ “ “ extra storage,	20	63
“ “ “ scraps,	2,121	50

EXPENDITURES.	Dolls.	Cts.
Amount paid for labor,	26,728	84
“ “ “ current expenses,	4,374	00
“ “ “ nails, by draft on Comptroller,	3,730	66

Amount of Stock on hand,..... 4,207 Hhds.





